



# Christchurch-Lyttelton Motorway Tunnel

Information sheet for commercial users

SEPTEMBER 2016

The NZ Transport Agency (Christchurch-Lyttelton Motorway Tunnel) Bylaw 2016 covers the tunnel's operational and safety rules and gives the tunnel control officers and the Tunnel Manager the authority they need to manage the tunnel and ensure safety for all users. The 2016 bylaw came into effect on 1 September 2016.

**The key change in the new bylaw is the requirement that loads going through the tunnel are adequately secured and that vehicles capable of carrying loose bulk loads are adequately covered both before and after load delivery to reduce dust and dirt in the tunnel.**



## LOAD SECURITY

Sections 8 and 9 of the bylaw detail the requirements for securing loads being transported through the tunnel.

- » **Unsecured material:** A vehicle must not enter the tunnel if it is loaded with any material that is so unsafely secured or contained that the material moves freely, escapes or falls from the vehicle or is likely to do so. Given the confined nature of the tunnel this is particularly important as there have been instances of loads moving and damaging the tunnel ceiling and items falling off of decks.
- » **Loose bulk loads:** A vehicle capable of carrying loose bulk loads with a gross laden weight of 6000kg or more must not enter the tunnel unless it is covered in a manner that minimises any dust or residue from the load escaping. A loose bulk load is defined as the transport of unpackaged material that is capable of generating or releasing dust due to wind action or movement and includes but is not limited to fertiliser, construction or demolition material, waste, soil, sand, or stock feed, but excludes bulk materials such as logs or scrap metal. Loose log debris must be removed from decks/chassis on completion of unloading.

## REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE TUNNEL

Sections 4–7 of the bylaw details activities that are not permitted in the tunnel: including towing and repairing of vehicles, overtaking, stopping, attempting u-turns or reversing vehicles, and cycling, walking or driving animals.

Any person in the tunnel must comply with any instruction or direction given by a tunnel control officer.

## VEHICLE DIMENSION LIMITS

Section 10 of the bylaw details the vehicle dimension limits that apply in the tunnel. The maximum height for a vehicle using the tunnel is 4.27 metres. The maximum width for the vehicle using the tunnel without special permission is 2.6 metres. Prior to approaching the tunnel, vehicles exceeding 2.6 metres in width must contact a tunnel control officer, obtain permission and comply with any conditions imposed including any specific requirements for escorting loads through the tunnel.

## TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS GOODS

Sections 11-13 of the bylaw detail the controls for the transport of dangerous goods through the tunnel.

- » **Prohibited goods:** A vehicle must not enter the tunnel if that vehicle is carrying dangerous goods in class 1 explosives, except for articles listed in table 2.1 of the Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005.
- » **Restricted dangerous goods requiring special authorisation from the Tunnel Manager:** A vehicle must not enter the tunnel if that vehicle is carrying the following restricted dangerous goods, unless the operator for each occasion obtains a special authorisation from the Tunnel Manager:
  - Class 3, flammable liquids, packing group I and 11, or
  - Class 6, division 6.1, toxic substances, packing group 1.
- » **Restricted dangerous goods requiring permission from a tunnel control officer:** The transport of the dangerous goods detailed in section 13 of the bylaw require permission from a tunnel control officer. Prior to approaching the tunnel, a vehicle operator carrying these goods must contact a tunnel control officer, obtain permission and comply with any conditions imposed including any specific requirements for escorting loads through the tunnel.

## SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

The Tunnel Manager may issue a special authorisation to use the tunnel in exceptional circumstances for a specified date, time and time period. A person intending to use the tunnel under a special authorisation must contact a tunnel control officer prior to approaching the tunnel and comply with any additional instructions, including any specific requirements for escorting loads through the tunnel.

If a tunnel control officer considers it necessary to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the tunnel and to ensure the safety of persons or property, they may direct any person using the tunnel or control the movement of traffic in and around the tunnel.

## PENALTIES

A person who breaches the provisions of the bylaw commits an offence and is liable for a fine of up to \$500 for each incidence.



## CONTACT

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[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/lyttelton-tunnel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/lyttelton-tunnel)

